

4. THE GREAT INDIAN RORQUAL *BALAENOPTERA MUSCULUS* (LINN.) NEAR PASNI (MEKRAN COAST), WEST PAKISTAN

A specimen of Great Indian Rorqual was stranded about 5 miles west of Pasni in June, 1967. The scattered bones of the skeleton (a few missing) were brought to Karachi by the staff of the Zoological Survey Department in their Launch *Talash* from Pasni with the assistance of the Provincial Fisheries Department staff stationed at Pasni. The skeleton is being articulated (the missing bones being made and fitted) and will be put for display in the Natural History Museum of the Department at Karachi.

The various measurements of the skeleton are as follows:—

Length of entire skeleton	.. 60'
Length of skull without maxilla and mandible	.. 7'
Length across Zygomatic arch	.. 9'·4"
Length of ramus of lower jaw	.. 18'
Radius of ramus	.. 3'·4"
Length of coronoid process	.. 1'·2"
Length of Rib—(maximum)	.. 10'
No. of Ribs	.. 15
No. of vertebrae	.. 57

Previous records from West Pakistan :

Murray¹ had indicated that a skull (17'·8" in length and 7' across Zygomatic arch) of the Indian Rorqual was stranded on Clifton beach in 1879.

In 1965, through the courtesy of the Provincial Fisheries Department at Pasni, the Zoological Survey Department was able to collect some pieces of skeleton of an Indian Rorqual from Juddi (near Pasni), Mekran Coast. The length of ramus of lower jaw is 10'.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Zahid Hussain, Deputy Director of Fisheries, West Pakistan, Pasni, and other staff of the Provincial Fisheries Department as well as the officers, staff and crew of the Zoological Survey Department for their co-operation and assistance rendered in several ways.

DIRECTOR,

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY DEPARTMENT,
GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN,
KARACHI,

M. S. U. SIDDIQI

September 20, 1968.

¹ Murray, J. A. (1884): The Vertebrate Zoology of Sind, P. 41.